

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03

OES-03 FEA-01 INT-05 SCCT-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /078 W

----- 007150

R 161550Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2529

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CURACAO 0015

E.O. 11652: XGDS3

TAGS: EAIR, ASEC, NA, IS

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ISRAELI APPROACH TO GON/GNA ON EL-AL FLIGHTS
TO CURACAO

1. CONGEN INFORMED IN CONFIDENCE THAT GOI HAS APPROACHED GON FOR LANDING RIGHTS IN NA FOR EL-AL. GON IN TURN HAS REQUESTED GNA VIEWS SINCE LATTER AUTONOMOUS IN ALL BUT DEFENSE AND FONAFFS. ACCORDING OUR SOURCE, EL-AL INTERESTED CURACAO AS STAGING POINT FOR NEW LATIN AMERICAN SERVICE. SOURCE STATED VENEZUELA AND PANAMA CONSIDERED AS ALTERNATIVES, BUT VENEZUELA UNLIKELY BE RECEPTIVE ISRAELI APPROACH BECAUSE OF OPEC CONNECTION AND PANAMA BECAUSE OF THIRD WORLD POSITION.

2. CONGEN RECALLS SIMILAR APPROACH TO GNA ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO, NOT FOLLOWED UP DUE TO UNFAVORABLE LOCAL POLITICAL CLIMATE AT THE TIME. CLIMATE BETTER NOW, AND NA CIVAIR OFFICIALS PERCEIVE DEFINITE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES IN EL-AL REQUEST, BUT AT SAME TIME ARE CONCERNED RE SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEMS AND TERRORISM. EL-AL PROPOSAL APPARENTLY INCLUDES FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY MEASURES, BUT NA WOULD NATURALLY BE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE THREAT TO ITS REFINERIES
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AND POL STORAGE FACILITIES ON CURACAO, ARUBA, AND BONAIRE.

3. OUR SOURCE INFORMALLY INTERSTED USG VIEWS.

4. COMMENT: NEW AIR SERVICE WOULD HAVE FAVORABLE DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACT ON NA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION, AND OFFER GOOD PROSPECTS OF IMPROVEMENT IN CURRENTLY LAGGING HOTEL BUSINESS ON CURACAO ISLAND. HOWEVER, WHETHER ANTICIPATED ECONOMIC BENEFITS OUTWEIGH POSSIBLE SECURITY PROBLEMS IS ANOTHER QUESTION. USG INTERESTS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN EVENTUAL GNA DECISION BY REASON OF ANY POTENTIAL THREAT TO U.S. REFINERY AND POL ASSETS.

5. DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS, AND INSTRUCTIONS RE ANY CONGEN RESPONSE TO THIS INFORMAL FEELER REQUESTED.
HANSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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